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NO. 137.

TAKING THE CENSUS.

WITH CAST OF CHARACTERS, ENTRANCES, AND EXITS, RELATIVE POSITIONS OF THE PERFORMERS ON THE STAGE, DESCRIPTION OF COSTUMES, AND THE WHOLE OF THE STAGE BUSINESS, AS PERFORMED AT THE PRINCIPAL AMERICAN AND ENGLISH THEATRES.

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TAKING THE CENSUS.

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Cast of Characters as first performed at Temperance Hall, Woonsocket, R. I., January 4th, 1882.

—o—

Mr. B.....(*the Census Taker*)..... Mr. M. Newell.
Deaf Old Lady,..... Ida M. Buxton.

Scene—a Kitchen.

Time—the Present.

Costumes—Modern and appropriate for the characters.

Time in representation—Twenty minutes.

TMP92-008776

Taking The Census.

SCENE.—A kitchen—Old Lady seated near table, R., *knitting.*

Mr. B. enters at L. *with book and pencil.*

Mr B. Good morning, madam.

O. L. Law sakes, how you sea't me!

Mr B. I beg pardon for the intrusion. (*seating himself*) I came to——

O. L. O yes, I spose you're the man come to look at the old brindle cow, 'aint you?

Mr B. No, madam, I am here to——

O. L. Hey?

Mr B. Not exactly, madam, I should——

O. L. Good? Of course she's a good cow; there 'ain't her beat in the county. Sech milk and butter you never see.

Mr B. No, no, my good woman, you don't understand me!

O. L. You'll have to speak kinder loud, cause I'm a little deaf, jest a trifle.

Mr B. (*quite loud*) I didn't come to buy the brindle cow. I never owned a cow in my life, and I never want one.

O. L. O, you don't! Wal, what on airth did ye come for?

Mr B. (*opening his book*) I am here to ascertain the——

O. L. O, yes, I see; you're one o' them pesky book men. Wal, you can go right back where you come from, for we don't wan't any more books.

Mr B. My good woman, wait one moment, let me explain!

O. L. Name? No, you can't take my name for that book if you talk all day!

Mr B. (*aside*) Good heavens! (*very loud*) I am not a book-agent I tell you!

O. L. Goodness gracious! Wal, what on airth are ye?

Mr B. I am taking the census.

O. L. (*much excited*) Out of your senses? (*aside*) Lord a mercy, a lunatic in my house, an' Hezekiah gone arter a load of wood. What shall I do! What shall I do!

Mr B. (*very loud*) I am taking the census.

O. L. Want to take my senses? Want to murder me in cold blood?

Mr B. My dear madam——

O. L. Yes, yes, I know. (*aside*) Jest see how wild his eyes are. He's dreadful lunatic, that's certain!

Mr B. (*loud*) Will you listen to me a moment?

O. L. (*aside*) I s'pose I'd better let him talk, if I cross him mebbe he'll get desperate. Hezekiah 'll be back soon.

Mr B. Say, will you pay attention? (*very loud*) I am not a lunatic, and don't want your senses; my business here is especial.

O. L. O, Sal, is it? Ho, ho, so you're one of them limber-legged, highfalutin chaps, what's kitin' around arter my Sal, be ye? Wal, you'd better be kitin' out o' here. I've heerd o' you afore, ever since you struck town, there's no gettin' any work out o' her; she's like all the rest o' the gals, jest as soon as they get a beau they don't think of nothin' else.

Mr B. How many children have you?

O. L. How many beaux has she got? Law sakes, I should hope she hadn't got but one, if she had another she'd go clean crazy; ever since she sot her eyes on this fol-de-rol of a chap she haint been worth a cent; can't get no work out of her, an' she's gone an' bang-

ed her hair till it hangs clean on to the end o' her nose, an' makes her look jest like a heathen Injun.

Mr B. (*aside*) Here's a dilemma indeed; I can't learn anything from her, I'll try and find her husband. Is your husband at home?

O. L. Hey?

Mr B. Is he at home? Your husband!

O. L. No, he don't care. Sal can coax him into anything, if she sot out to marry a nigger, Hezekiah never'd have gumption enough to forbid the bans; why, t'other day she wheedled him into buyin' her a gown with a tail on it a yard long, and then he got her a poker bonnet that looks jist like an old shay-top. Hezekiah hain't got no spunk at all, but I've got my foot down to stop this nonsense, and I'm goin' to do it, so if you come here to see my Sal—

Mr B. O botheration! I didn't come to see your Sal! I'm a married man!

O. L. A married man, an' a courtin' my Sal? Lord a massy, you villain, you wretch! I'll have a warrant right out for you! I'll —I'll—I'll arrest you for bigamy!

Mr B. I don't know your Sal! I don't want to know her! Madam, I am sent here by the government and the law——

O. L. I don't care for law, nor gospel either. I tell you my Sal 'aint a goin' to flirt with married men.

Mr B. Woman, the law can compel you to answer the questions I ask! Do you understand? I am sent here to ask certain questions, and you are bound to answer them. First, how many are there in your family?

O. L. There's five on us—me, Hezekiah, Sal, the man that boarded here last winter, and Jack.

Mr B. Does he board here now?

O. L. Oh, no, he went to Alabama, cotched the yellow fever and died, but he would have boarded here if he'd only stayed.

Mr B. Who's Jack?

O. L. Jack? Why that's our dog.

Mr B. Pshaw! I only want to know about the human beings.

O. L. Wal, he's the humanest dog I ever see; you can't find his equal in the neighborhood.

Mr B. Well, well, I don't care about him. Are there any deaf and dumb folks in your family—anybody deaf and dumb?

O. L. Wal, there's Hezekiah! He can hear well enough when anybody asks him to take a drink, but when I ask him to bring a pail o' water or an arm-ful o' wood he's deafer than any old adder.

Mr B. (*aside*) O, heavens! This is more than any mortal man can stand. I can't bother with her any longer, I'll go out to the barn and see if I can find the old gentleman. Good-day, madam.

(*exit*, L.

O. L. Say, look here, don't you want to know what we're going to have for supper next Christmas!

CURTAIN.

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